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## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### U.S. Customs and Border Protection

#### Extension of the Air Cargo Advance Screening (ACAS) Pilot Program and Reopening of Application Period for Participation

**AGENCY:** U.S. Customs and Border Protection, DHS.

**ACTION:** General notice.

**SUMMARY:** On October 24, 2012, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) published a notice in the **Federal Register** that announced the formalization and expansion of the Air Cargo Advance Screening (ACAS) pilot program that would run for six months. On April 23, 2013, CBP published a notice in the **Federal Register** extending the pilot period for another six months. This document announces that CBP is extending the pilot period for an additional nine months and reopening the application period for new participants for 60 days. The ACAS pilot is a voluntary test in which participants submit a subset of required advance air cargo data to CBP at the earliest point practicable prior to loading of the cargo onto the aircraft destined to or transiting through the United States.

**DATES:** CBP is extending the ACAS pilot program through July 26, 2014, and reopening the application period to accept applications from new ACAS pilot participants through [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE **FEDERAL REGISTER**]. Comments concerning any aspect of the announced test may be submitted at any time during the test period.

**ADDRESSES:** Applications to participate in the ACAS pilot must be submitted via email to [CBPCCS@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:CBPCCS@cbp.dhs.gov). Written comments concerning program, policy, and technical issues may also be submitted via email to [CBPCCS@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:CBPCCS@cbp.dhs.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Regina Park, Cargo and Conveyance Security, Office of Field Operations, U.S. Customs & Border Protection, via email at [regina.park@dhs.gov](mailto:regina.park@dhs.gov).

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Background**

On October 24, 2012, CBP published a general notice in the **Federal Register** (77 FR 65006, corrected in 77 FR 65395<sup>1</sup>) announcing that CBP is formalizing and expanding the ACAS pilot to include other eligible participants in the air cargo environment. The notice provides a description of the ACAS pilot, sets forth eligibility requirements for participation, and invites public comments on any aspect of the test. In brief, the ACAS pilot revises the time frame for pilot participants to transmit a subset of mandatory advance electronic information for air cargo. CBP regulations implementing the Trade Act of 2002 specify the required data elements and the time frame for submitting them to CBP. Pursuant to 19 CFR 122.48a, the required advance information for air cargo must be submitted no later than the time of departure of the aircraft for the United States (from specified locations) or four hours prior to arrival in the United States for all other locations.

The ACAS pilot is a voluntary test in which participants agree to submit a subset of the required 19 CFR 122.48a data elements (ACAS data) at the earliest point

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<sup>1</sup> This **Federal Register** notice, published on October 26, 2012, corrected the email address under the **ADDRESSES** heading for submitting applications or comments. The correct email address is [CBPCCS@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:CBPCCS@cbp.dhs.gov).

practicable prior to loading of the cargo onto the aircraft destined to or transiting through the United States. The ACAS data is used to target high-risk air cargo. CBP is considering possible amendments to the regulations regarding advance information for air cargo. The results of the ACAS pilot will help determine the relevant data elements, the time frame within which data must be submitted to permit CBP to effectively target, identify and mitigate any risk with the least impact practicable on trade operations, and any other related procedures and policies.

### **Extension of the ACAS Pilot Period and Reopening of the Application Period**

The October 2012 notice announced that the ACAS pilot would run for six months. The notice provided that if CBP determined that the pilot period should be extended, CBP would publish another notice in the **Federal Register**. The October 2012 notice also stated that applications from new ACAS pilot participants would be accepted until November 23, 2012. On December 26, 2012, CBP published a notice in the **Federal Register** (77 FR 76064) reopening the application period for new participants until January 8, 2013. On January 3, 2013, the **Federal Register** published a correction (78 FR 315) stating that the correct date of the close of the reopened application period was January 10, 2013. On April 23, 2013, CBP published a notice in the **Federal Register** (78 FR 23946) extending the ACAS pilot period through October 26, 2013, and reopening the application period through May 23, 2013.

CBP continues to see an increase in the diversity and number of pilot participants representing a strong sample size of the air cargo community. However, CBP also continues to receive requests to participate in the pilot. In order to provide greater opportunity for a wide range of the air cargo community to participate in the ACAS pilot

and to prepare for possible proposed regulatory changes, CBP is extending the ACAS pilot period through July 26, 2014, and reopening the application period through [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE **FEDERAL REGISTER**].

Anyone interested in participating in the ACAS pilot should refer to the notice published in the **Federal Register** on October 24, 2012, for additional application information and eligibility requirements

Dated: October 18, 2013.

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Susan T. Mitchell,  
Acting Assistant Commissioner,  
Office of Field Operations.

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